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GENERAL

1. French suggest delay of 5 December Berlin elections--US Ambassador Caffery in Paris transmits a communication from Foreign Minister Schuman suggesting that the 5 December municipal elections in the western sectors of Berlin might be postponed. Schuman points out that, because the USSR has refused to authorize similar elections in the Soviet sector, the holding of the 5 December elections would: (a) formalize the division of the Berlin administration; (b) make it "impossible" to maintain the present situation in which the eastern zone mark is accepted as legal tender in the western sectors; (c) crystallize the current situation in Berlin and make the division of the city "irremediable"; and (d) aggravate the Berlin problem at a time when the Security Council is still seeking a concrete solution.

EUROPE

2. FRANCE: Communist concern over "bad" strike situation--
[redacted] has been reliably informed that French Communist leader Thorez considers the present strike situation in France "not good" from the Communist point of view. Thorez reportedly admits that the French coal strike is now "virtually non-existent," with only the most faithful Communist Party members still following orders. Thorez is reported to believe that the Communist-dominated CGT must now have a rest period, during which "future battles will be prepared."
3. YUGOSLAVIA: Tito reported seeking closer ties with Italy--US Embassy Rome has received information from a usually reliable source, which it is otherwise unable to confirm, that a personal emissary of Marshal Tito has contacted the Italian

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Government. According to this information, Tito has decided that he would lose less by turning toward Italy than toward the USSR. Tito is said to have therefore requested a settlement of outstanding issues between Yugoslavia and Italy.

(CIA Comment: Although it is possibly true that Tito wants to settle some major outstanding issues with Italy, CIA considers it unlikely that he will break the remaining Soviet-Yugoslav ties at this time.)

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